

Claims

What is claimed is:

1. A method for facilitating computer editing of an electronic document, said electronic document comprising a plurality of objects that are graphically rendered in a layout comprising a plurality of unique locations, said method comprising:
 - 4 positioning a first cursor at a first location within said electronic document;
 - positioning a second cursor at a second location within said electronic document,
 - 6 wherein said first and second cursors are independently displayable and independently positionable at any of said plurality of unique locations of said electronic document;
 - 8 defining a selection string based upon a selected contiguous arrangement of at least one object of said plurality of objects; and
 - 10 transferring said selection string to a location within said electronic document as determined by said second location of said second cursor.
2. The method according to claim 1, wherein said transferring comprises a copy-and-paste operation.
3. The method according to claim 1, wherein said transferring comprises a cut-and-paste operation.
4. The method according to claim 1, wherein said transferring is repeated responsive to user input.
5. The method according to claim 1, said method further comprising:
 - 2 positioning said second cursor at a third location within said electronic document; and
 - transferring said selection string to a location within said electronic document as
 - 4 determined by said third location of said second cursor.

6. The method according to claim 1, said method further comprising:
2 repeatedly repositioning said second cursor at new locations within said electronic
document; and
4 transferring said selection string to each of a plurality of new locations within said
electronic document as determined by said repeatedly repositioned second cursor.

7. The method according to claim 1, wherein said selection string is defined
2 before said second cursor is positioned at said second location within said electronic
document.

8. The method according to claim 1, wherein said selection string is defined after
2 said second cursor is positioned at said second location within said electronic document.

9. The method according to claim 1, wherein said first and second cursors are
2 simultaneously displayed and positionable in a common graphical user interface window.

10. The method according to claim 1, wherein said first and second locations are
2 separated by a distance such that said first and second cursors are unable to be simultaneously
displayed in a common graphical user interface window, and wherein only one of said first
4 and second cursors is displayed when said graphical user interface window displays a portion
of said electronic document that comprises a selected one of said first and second cursors.

11. The method according to claim 1, wherein said first and second locations are
2 separated by a distance such that said first and second cursors are unable to be simultaneously
displayed in a common graphical user interface window, and wherein only one of said first
4 and second cursors are positionable when said graphical user interface window displays a
portion of said electronic document that comprises a selected one of said first and second
6 cursors.

12. The method according to claim 10, wherein said graphical user interface
2 window displays a portion of said electronic document that comprises a last positioned one of
said first and second cursors.

13. The method according to claim 11, wherein said graphical user interface
2 window displays a portion of said electronic document that comprises a last positioned one of
said first and second cursors.

14. The method according to claim 10, wherein said positioning of said first
2 cursor is controlled by a first user interface sensor, and said positioning of said second cursor
is controlled by a second user interface sensor; and wherein
4 said graphical user interface window displays a portion of said electronic document
comprising one of said first and second cursors that is associated with a last manipulated one
6 of said first and second user interface sensors.

15. The method according to claim 11, wherein said positioning of said first
2 cursor is controlled by a first user interface sensor, and said positioning of said second cursor
is controlled by a second user interface sensor; and wherein
4 said graphical user interface window displays a portion of said electronic document
comprising one of said first and second cursors that is associated with a last manipulated one
6 of said first and second user interface sensors.

16. The method according to claim 10, wherein a user interface selection event
2 selectively causes said graphical user interface window to display either a portion of said
electronic document that comprises said first cursor, or a portion of said electronic document
4 that comprises said second cursor.

17. The method according to claim 11, wherein a user interface selection event
2 selectively causes said graphical user interface window to display either a portion of said
electronic document that comprises said first cursor, or a portion of said electronic document
4 that comprises said second cursor.

18. The method according to claim 1, wherein said first cursor is displayed within
2 a first graphical user interface window, and said second cursor is displayed within a second
graphical user interface window.

19. The method according to claim 1, wherein said first cursor is positionable
2 within a first graphical user interface window, and said second cursor is positionable within a
separate, second graphical user interface window.

20. The method according to claim 1, wherein one or more of said plurality of
2 objects comprise a text symbol.

21. The method according to claim 1, wherein one or more of said plurality of
2 objects comprise a text object.

22. The method according to claim 1, wherein one or more of said plurality of
2 objects comprise a graphics object.

23. The method according to claim 1, said method further comprising:
2 generating interactive parameters responsive to operation of a hand-operated user
interface device; and
4 selectively controlling said positioning of only one of said first and second cursors at
any given time based upon said generated interactive parameters.

24. The method according to claim 1, said method further comprising:
2 generating at least two different, interactive parameters responsive to operation of a
hand-operated user interface device; and
4 controlling said positioning of said first and second cursors based upon said generated
at least two interactive parameters.

25. The method according to claim 24, wherein a first one of said interactive
2 parameters is generated by a sensor housed within said user interface device, wherein said
sensor is adapted to detect movement of said user interface device relative to two axes
4 orthogonal to each other, and wherein
a second one of said interactive parameters is generated by an additional user interface
6 sensor coupled to said user interface device.

26. The method according to claim 25, wherein said additional user interface
2 sensor comprises a trackball.

27. The method according to claim 25, wherein said additional user interface
2 sensor comprises a touchpad.

28. The method according to claim 1, said method further comprising:
2 generating at least four independently adjustable interactive parameters responsive to
operation of a touchpad; and
4 controlling said positioning of said first and second cursors based upon at least two of
the generated at least four interactive parameters.

29. The method according to claim 1, said method further comprising:

2 generating at least two independently adjustable interactive parameters responsive to operation of a first trackball;

4 generating at least two independently adjustable interactive parameters responsive to operation of a second trackball; and

6 controlling said positioning of said first and second cursors based upon interactive parameters generated by one of said first and second trackballs.

30. The method according to claim 1, said method further comprising:

2 generating at least two independently adjustable interactive parameters responsive to operation of a first touchpad;

4 generating at least two independently adjustable interactive parameters responsive to operation of a second touchpad; and

6 controlling said positioning of said first and second cursors based upon interactive parameters generated by one of said first and second touchpads.

31. A computer media product implementing a method for facilitating computer

2 editing of an electronic document comprising a plurality of objects that are graphically rendered in a layout comprising a plurality of unique locations, said computer media product
4 comprising computer programmable code implementing:

positioning a first cursor at a first location within said electronic document;

6 positioning a second cursor at a second location within said electronic document,
wherein said first and second cursors are independently displayable and independently
8 positionable at any of said plurality of unique locations of said electronic document;

defining a selection string based upon a selected contiguous arrangement of at least

10 one object of said plurality of objects; and

transferring said selection string to a location within said electronic document as

12 determined by said second location of said second cursor.

32. The computer media product according to claim 31, wherein said computer
2 programmable code further implements:

repeatedly repositioning said second cursor at new locations within said electronic
4 document; and

transferring said selection string to each of a plurality of new locations within said
6 electronic document as determined by said repeatedly repositioned second cursor.

33. The computer media product according to claim 31, wherein said first and
2 second cursors are simultaneously displayed and positionable in a common graphical user
interface window.

34. The computer media product according to claim 31, wherein said computer
2 programmable code further implements:

processing interactive parameters responsive to operation of a hand-operated user
4 interface device; and

selectively controlling said positioning of only one of said first and second cursors at
6 any given time based upon said generated interactive parameters.

35. The computer media product according to claim 31, wherein said computer
2 programmable code further implements:

processing at least two different, interactive parameters responsive to operation of a
4 hand-operated user interface device; and

controlling said positioning of said first and second cursors based upon said generated
6 at least two interactive parameters.

36. The computer media product according to claim 31, wherein said computer
2 programmable code further implements:

4 processing at least four independently adjustable interactive parameters responsive to
operation of a touchpad; and

6 controlling said positioning of said first and second cursors based upon at least two of
the generated at least four interactive parameters.

37. The computer media product according to claim 31, wherein said computer
2 programmable code further implements:

4 processing at least two independently adjustable interactive parameters responsive to
operation of a first trackball;

6 generating at least two independently adjustable interactive parameters responsive to
operation of a second trackball; and

8 controlling said positioning of said first and second cursors based upon interactive
parameters generated by one of said first and second trackballs.

38. The computer media product according to claim 31, wherein said computer
2 programmable code further implements:

4 processing at least two independently adjustable interactive parameters responsive to
operation of a first touchpad;

6 processing at least two independently adjustable interactive parameters responsive to
operation of a second touchpad; and

8 controlling said positioning of said first and second cursors based upon interactive
parameters generated by one of said first and second touchpads.

39. A method for facilitating computer editing of an electronic document, said
2 electronic document comprising a plurality of objects that are graphically rendered in a layout
comprising a plurality of unique locations, said method comprising:
4 positioning a first cursor at a first location within said electronic document;
5 positioning a second cursor at a second location within said electronic document,
6 wherein said first and second cursors are independently displayable and independently
7 positionable at any of said plurality of unique locations of said electronic document; and
8 defining a selection string based upon a selected contiguous arrangement of at least
9 one object of said plurality of objects, wherein said selection string is capable of being
10 transferred to a location within said electronic document as determined by said second
 location of said second cursor.